

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of determining the orientation of an image ~~characterised in that the orientation is deduced from the digital representation of the image~~ comprising determining the orientation from direction and magnitude of normal vectors associated with local curvature in a set of points associated with a digital representation of said image.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Currently Amended) ~~The [[A]] method according to claim 1 wherein said digital representation is an edge representation- wherein said image is represented by a digital edge representation.~~
4. (Currently Amended) ~~The [[A]] method according to claim 1 wherein said image is a thoracic image and wherein the curvature is determined of ribs or ribcage in said thoracic image , the method further comprising determining curvature of at least one of ribs and ribcage in said thoracic image.~~
5. (Currently Amended) ~~The [[A]] method according to claim 1 wherein said image is a mammographic image and wherein said curvature is calculated for skin border edge segments of said image.~~
6. (Currently Amended) ~~The [[A]] method according to claim 1 further comprising~~
 - performing a first and second derivative vector computation for one or more pixels of said digital representation,
 - quantizing ~~the~~ a direction and magnitude of the computed first and second derivative vectors,
 - weighted voting ~~[[of]]~~ the quantized first and second derivative directions into analyzing coordinate system orientations ~~so as to determine a maximum vote, and~~

- selecting the image orientation having the ~~maximal~~ maximum vote.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[A]]~~ method according to claim 1 wherein collimation areas are excluded from said digital ~~signal~~ representation.

8. (Original) The ~~[[A]]~~ method according to claim 1 wherein direct exposure areas are excluded from said digital representation.

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[A]]~~ method according to claim 1 further comprising ~~[[of]]~~ orienting ~~[[an]]~~ the image represented by ~~[[a]]~~ the digital ~~signal~~ representation into a desired orientation ~~comprising the steps of deriving orientation of said image, [[-]]~~ by subjecting said image to an orientation modifying geometric transformation to yield said desired orientation of the image ~~wherein said orientation is derived according to the method of claim 1.~~

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A computer readable ~~carrier~~ medium ~~comprising~~ having stored thereon computer executable program code ~~adapted to carry~~ for carrying out the steps of claim 1.

14. (Canceled)

15. (New) The method according to claim 1 wherein said orientation is deduced from an addition vector of said normal vectors.

16. (New) The method according to claim 1 wherein said image is represented by an iso-intensity representation.

17. (New) A method of determining the orientation of an image wherein said image is represented by an edge representation comprising fitting a circle segment to data of said edge representation and determining said orientation as a direction of a midpoint of the fitted circle segment toward a circle center.

18. (New) The method according to claim 6 wherein said image is a 2D image and said analyzing coordinate system is quantized according to four Cartesian plane quadrants.

19. (New) The method according to claim 6 wherein said image is a 3D image and said analyzing coordinate system is quantized according to eight Cartesian space octants.

20. (New) The method according to claim 17 wherein said image is a thoracic image, the method further comprising determining curvature of at least one of ribs and ribcage in said thoracic image.

21. (New) The method according to claim 17 wherein said image is a mammographic image and wherein said curvature is calculated for skin border edge segments of said image.

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.